



I was blind but now I see!

1. A miserable condition

▼ He was blind from birth

¹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth.

▼ He was broke and begging

⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?"

▼ He was blasted with bogus blame

² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life."

2. A miraculous cure

▼ Jesus preached a mini message

⁴ "As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

▼ Jesus prepared a muddy medicine

⁶ Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent).

▼ Jesus performed a major miracle

⁷ So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

3. A mystified crowd

▼ They were confused about the man

⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

▼ They were curious about the miracle

¹⁰ "How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded. ¹¹ He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." ¹² "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said.

4. A messy controversy

▼ The Pharisees examined him about the miracle

They probed him for details

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

The pressed him for a decision

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided. ¹⁷ Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet."

They plied his parents for details

¹⁸ The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. ¹⁹ "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" ²⁰ "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

▼ The Pharisees excommunicated him for his mouthiness

They pelted him with scolding

²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" ²⁶ Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"

They plastered him with slander

²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he came from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

The punted him out of the synagogue

³⁴ To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

5. A Messianic clarification

▼ Jesus issued an invitation

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." ³⁸ Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

▼ Jesus issued an incrimination

⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" ⁴¹ Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

Messages from the Miracle

1. People all around us are in trouble — so let's see them with the eyes of Jesus, not with spiritual scorn and speculation.
2. Our work for God is time-sensitive; we have windows of opportunity and must work while we can — so let's get busy for Jesus!
3. The weaknesses of this life provide opportunity for God's work to be displayed in our lives — so trust Jesus and let him work!
4. The Lord uses a variety of formulas, ingredients, and directives to accomplish his work in our lives — so let's watch and cooperate!
5. The Lord wants to change us so radically that others can hardly believe we're the same people we used to be — so let's be changeable.
6. Others may wonder where our blessings have come from — so let's be quick to give credit to Jesus and point people to him.
7. When others throw you out, Jesus will take you in — so come on in to the house of God and join the party!
8. When Jesus opens your eyes, a brand new future appears — so let him open your eyes wide, focus forward, and enjoy the view!
9. If you're going to see anyone or anything in this life, see Jesus — he is the Light of the world and the light of life!
10. When you've finally seen Jesus, you've seen the best and brightest — so worship him without reservation or restraint!

JOHN 9:1-41

- 1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth.
- 8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?"
- 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life."
- 4 "As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
- 6 Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent).
- 7 So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.
- 8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man."
- 10 "How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded. 11 He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." 12 "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said.
- 13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. 14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. 15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."
- 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided. 17 Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet."
- 18 The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. 19 "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" 20 "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. 21 But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. 23 That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."
- 24 A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." 25 He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" 26 Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 27 He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"
- 28 Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! 29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he came from." 30 The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. 32 Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."
- 34 To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.
- 35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." 37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." 38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."
- 40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" 41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

The POOL of SILOAM at JERUSALEM

The Pool of Siloam was built during the reign of King Hezekiah (ca.700BC) to provide an inside-the-city fresh water reservoir. It was fed from the Gihon Spring east of Jerusalem through Hezekiah's Tunnel. The Pool was cut into the rock on the southern slope of the City of David, the original site of the city of Jerusalem.

The Pool of Siloam is referred to as "the Lower Pool" in Isaiah 22:9 and "the King's Pool" in Nehemiah 2:14. The Pool of Siloam was repaired and reconstructed in the first century BC and existed as such at the time of Jesus.

The Pool of Siloam, having been buried for centuries, was rediscovered in 2004 and excavated extensively. Excavations revealed the Pool to be 225 feet wide and surrounded on three sides by steps allowing access to the public.

Reference to the Pool of Siloam in John 9:7 locates the healing of the man born blind in the city of Jerusalem. John 8:59-9:1 tracks Jesus' steps as follows: "At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds. As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth."

